

William (Bill)A. Hickman 1815-1883

By Jim Strong 18 July 2005

Yep, I'm "Wild Bill Hickman. Mr. Hickman to you! Sometime it's hard being a rough, mean spirited bully, and a vengeful stubborn frontiersman. So take yer hat off, set a spell and study up on us territorial outlaws. Least always that's what they is saying about us. But don't turn yer back on any of us in this here town. We won't be insulted noways.

What I look like? I was thickset and burly with a dyed dark beard. Some say I led a "shady" and notorious life in the Utah Territory. I feared no law-cept the prophets. I protected Brigham some but ended up being an excommunicated Mormon.

But look on the good side of me! I was elected a territorial legislator in 1855. and a Guerilla Leader who helped delay Johnston's Army from coming into the Great Salt Lake Valley causing them to spend the winter on the Wyoming plains in 1857. Don't ferget that I was a defense attorney for others when the need arose. Me and Lewis Lewis Robinson persuaded Jim Bridger to sell fort Bridger to the Mormons in 1855. We delivered the \$4,000 down payment in gold it took to purchase the fort and its supplies. Sad as it was, I also led the 150 man posse sent to arrest Jim Bridger (Bridger escaped).

Ya, I did put Richard Yates "under" for his money and his horse and tryed to implicate Brigham Young. But I was mad when I wrote "Brigham's Destroying Angel" and since apologized some fer it.

Now about those "mountaineers" that got kilt in Wyoming over the right to operate a ferry. I didn't getem all, some of my boys dunem in. I did have a group of hired men and some say I ran a mean outlaw gang. Yeah, I threatened Judge W.W. Drummond that I would horse whip him if he served me a warrant of arrest-the warrant was never served.

There was that incident in 1861 of Governor Dawson who was beat up real bad by some of my boys(gang) because the Gov. spoke seductive language to a Salt Lake woman. Dawson died of this beating a few months later. He was only governor for 21 days.

Yeah, I caught one of Port Rockwell's custody escapes. Ya gotta remember that I was a sheriff and a deputy marshall too. I heared there was a showdown between me and Port Rockwell. Lots of folks would have liked to have seen that... and both of us get blasted. but it never did really come about.

Yeah it was a sad life. Got shot once real bad in 1859 by Lott Huntington over stolen property. He got me in the hip and the wound plagued me for 24 more years. I got him too but not as bad. Jest guessin but I put down about 55 folks, mostly injuns, may 56 counting "Spanish" Frank Moreno that run off with my ex-wife. But he had it comin cuse he was gonna seduce my 11 year old daughter.

Meby ya'll didn't know but I had ten wives and 35 kids. Most left me and changed their names due to my bad reputation and riotous living.

Tell you what. I bin buried twice. Once in the Lauder, Wyoming Cemetery and the citizens there would not allow me to stay there so some of my family re-buried me in an unmarked grave out of town in 1883. Thanks fer stoppin by and being respectful.